

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An accounting method for imposing, by a server, a charge for using an application program installed on a client, the method comprising:

setting a particular function of the application program installed on the client as a key function;

~~a function performance detecting step for detecting whether a particular function set as a performance of the key function of anthe application program installed on the client was performedas performance of the particular function;~~

~~an application program specifying step for specifying a type of the application program performing the particular function set as the key function;~~

~~a user specifying step for specifyingregistering a user who performed the particular functionfor using the key function of the application program; and~~

~~an accounting step for imposing charges on athe registered user specified by the user specifying step according to a frequency of performance ofdetecting performance of the keyparticular function of the application program and the type of the application programdetected via the set key function by the function performance detecting step, wherein the accounting step imposes a charge according to the application program specified by the application program specifying step.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The accounting method according to claim 1, wherein the particular function set as the key function is to output data from the client to an external device.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The accounting method according to claim 1, further comprising a user registration step for performing user registration wherein the registering the user for the application program is performed upon detecting the performance of the key function by the user in case of the particular function having been performed for the first time.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The accounting method according to claim 1, further comprising an imposed charge amount informing step for wherein the setting the particular function of the application program comprises setting an imposed charges key function, the method further comprising informing a client which made a request about the registered user of amount of charges imposed at that time of detecting performance of the imposed charges key function by the registered user.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A server for imposing a charge for using an application program installed on a client, the server comprising:

a controller

setting a particular function of the application program installed on the client as a key function,

function performance detecting means for detecting whether a particular function set as a performance of the key function of the application program installed on the client was performed; as performance of the particular function,

application program specifying means for specifying a type of the application program performing the particular function; function set as the key function,

user specifying means for specifying registering a user who performed the particular function; for using the key function of the application program, and

accounting means for imposing charges on the registered user specified by the user specifying means according to a frequency of detecting performance of the particular key function of the application program and the type of the application program detected via the set key function by the function performance detecting means, wherein the accounting means imposes a charge according to the application program specified by the application program specifying means.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The accounting method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~a charge deducting step for deducting automatically the charges imposed by the accounting step from an account being under the user's name.~~

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An accounting method for imposing, by a server, a charge for using an application program installed on a client, the method comprising:

a key function setting step for setting a particular function of the application program installed on the client as a key function and for specifying a type of the application program performing the particular function set as the key function;

a function performance detecting step for detecting whether a particular function set as a performance of the key function of anthe application program installed on the client was performed as performance of the particular function;

a user specifying information obtainingregistration step for obtaining information for specifyingregistering a user in case of the performance of the particular function of the application program having been detected via the set key function by the function performance detecting stepusing the key function of the application program; and

a user specifying information sending step for sending the server the information for specifying a user obtained by the user specifying information obtaining stepan accounting step for imposing charges on the registered user according to a frequency of detecting performance of the key function of the application program and the type of the application program.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client for having a server impose a charge for using an application program installed on athe client, the client comprising:

a controller

setting a particular function of the application program installed on the client as a key function,

specifying a type of the application program performing the particular function set as the key function,

function performance detecting means for detecting whether a particularperformance of the key function set as a key function of aof the application as performance of the particular function, program installed on the client was performed;

~~user specifying information obtaining means for obtaining information for specifying a user of a user using the key function of the application program, in case of the performance of the particular function of the program having been detected via the set key function by the function performance detecting means; and~~

~~user specifying information sending means for sending to the server the information for specifying a user information and the type of the application information, upon the detecting of the performance of the key function by the user obtained by the user specifying information obtaining means.~~

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A software usage charging system, comprising:  
~~a programmed client computer a client computer comprising a controller executing to execute software, obtaining information of a user using a particular function of the software set as a key function of the software, and to detect detecting usage of a particular function set as at the key function of the software by at the user as performance of the particular function; and a programmed server computer in communication with the client computer and comprising a controller setting the particular function of the software as the key function of the software executing on the client and setting a type of the software, and charging to charge the user according to use of the particular function of the software function, in response to detected usage of the particular function of the software via the set key function by the programmed client computer the detecting the usage of the software key function by the client computer and the type of the software.~~